

This is the excerpt from the letter of a Ukrainian literary scholar of Kiev to one of our Sources in Canada. The letter was dtd 7 Aug 1968. The author of the letter is very well known to us.

From source

" Mykhaylyna Kotsyubynska has no job and at present there are no outlooks that she will soon get one. Actually it would be possible to find work for a specialist like her (and others) if there were a desire for this - naturally not on her part. In general these Chinese methods of dealing with the intelligentsia (a real, thinking and creative intelligentsia) should have already become a thing of the past to be remembered with the same kind of imprecations as the Valuyiv edict of 1876 which prohibited the use of the Ukrainian language, or the "justice" dealt during the Stalinist personality cult era. Instead, the instincts and feelings of hatred, about which Galileo once wrote that there is no stronger hatred than that of darkness towards light, still exist. They are alive and unconquerable. Perhaps, once they become history, it will become possible to write about them from the point of view of truth and those ideals of justice for which we so long.

How sad and depressed one is at times and how happy and gay at others. Take now for an example. The ideas of democratization have triumphed! Common sense has won. We are very happy for the Czechoslovaks and happy that the danger of war in our camp has passed. It was difficult to think and believe that in the center of Europe fires were being lighted under the stakes of Jan Hus and Giordano Bruno.

And here they are still setting a fire under Honchar's "Sobor" (The Cathedral). How disgraceful. But I am an optimist. I believe in progress and the triumph of reason. "

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3828
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

23 Sept 68

Following is the excerpt from a letter of the same scholar written 1-July 1968 and brought "privately" from Kiev to our Source in Canada.

2.14.68

" By the way, I don't know whether you read Poltoratsky's article, "Whom Are Certain 'Humanists' Defending?", published in Literaturna Ukraina July 16 (it was reprinted in Visti z Ukrainy). This article refers to us - Mykhaylyna Kotsyubynska, Braychevsky, me, I. Dzyuba, L. Kostenko, and others who signed the letter. We are the humanists in quotation marks. The article is not based on truth. In the first place, no mention was made of Karavansky (in this or any earlier letter, although, naturally, sending someone to complete a non-existent 25-year prison term cannot be considered just); secondly, Chornovil's "biography" was reduced to cover the last three months before his imprisonment; thirdly, he is in fact a journalist, known even from the pages of Literaturna Ukraina; and fourthly, he never said those things about Komsomol-members which the author of the article put into quotation marks as a quote from one of Chornovil's publications (Chornovil was secretary of the Komsomol organization at HES (Hydro-Electric Station) in Kiev for 5 years). Obviously some corrections should be made with regard to this article. We are waiting for them. "